**TEN BOARD OF EDUCATION QUESTIONS**

**2023 Candidate Mike Barone**

**1, Why are you running for the Board of Education? If elected, what will be your priorities?** I believe it is a great opportunity and important to get more involved and be an advocate for not only my children buy also the other children in the district as well. My priorities would be to try a bring a positive open minded attitude and do what I ever I could to help the students have an environment that enables them to succeed to their highest potential.

**2, What particular experiences or skills have prepared you to serve as a board member?** I am a self employed owner of 4 restaurants for the last 20 years and employ many employees. With this background I believe I could bring many skills such as budgeting, finance, problem solving, competence, dedication and passion.

**3, What is a school board member’s role and responsibility? How does that differ from the role of the superintendent or administration?** A school board member's role is to mold the school district to a bright future that gives the student the best possible tools to be successful. The superintendent works for the school board and is the person who puts policy into action.

**4, What is the best way to address differences of opinion on the board or between the board and administration?** I think being open minded, face to face communication, transparency and the ability to work together as a team is the best way to address differences between the board and the administration.

**5, What should your school district do to better prepare students as citizens?** In today’s age I believe students need to come out of school with better work ethic and the right tools to make them successful to become productive civilians after their high school tenure is finished.

**6, What is the role of schools in teaching children about topics such as sex education, cyber-safety, wellness, and bullying?** I believe it is the school’s duty to provide and teach accurate, inclusive and accessible traditional information that has been taught for many years for sex education. For cyber safety schools are required by Children's Internet Protection Act to educate them on appropriate online behavior. I believe the school should teach traditional history because the past teaches us about the present. Wellness is important to teach our students the importance of healthy eating and physical activity. And last I have a strong opinion on bullying and that is zero tolerance.

**7, What are your thoughts on your school districts programs for special education students, English Language Learners (ELL), and gifted students?** Being that I have a special needs son in this district I strongly believe in in programs that are offered to special needs, ELL and gifted students.

**8, What do you see as the major issue(s) facing your school district? Public education?** Two of the major issues I see in the district from the public education side is the lack of skills the students have when they apply for a job and I believe the importance of this needs to be addressed so they can succeed in the career path they choose when they finish high school. Second is school sports and the lack of determination and competitiveness for SE. I don't believe we should have any athletes in the SE district going a playing for other schools around the area because they can’t play at SE and it needs to be addressed.

**9, How would you determine your budget priorities?** My budget priorities would be to take the programs that offer the highest amount of value to the district and eliminate the lower value services so that so that we are on the highest level of education we can be at.

**10, Do you have specific suggestions for improvement in our district?** I really would just like to see SE and its students succeed at the highest level possible.